



Lindsey Sin, Deputy Secretary, Women Veterans Affairs

Overview

- History of Women in the Military
- Current Service
- Challenges
- CalVet Women Veterans Division



A History of Service

- Women have served since the Revolutionary War, when Deborah Sampson, alias Robert Shurtleff, disguised herself as a man in order to fight.
- Cathay Williams, alias William Cathey, disguised herself as a man for two years as a Buffalo Soldier.
- In the Civil War women served on both the Union and Confederate sides.

A History of Service

Figure 1.
**Number of Women Who Served and Casualty
Counts, by Wartime Period**

Military Conflict	Number Served	Casualties
Spanish-American War	1,500	20+
World War I	10,000+	172
World War II	400,000	217+
Korean War	120,000	2
Vietnam Era	7,000	8
Persian Gulf War	41,000	15
Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom	200,000+	141

A History of Service

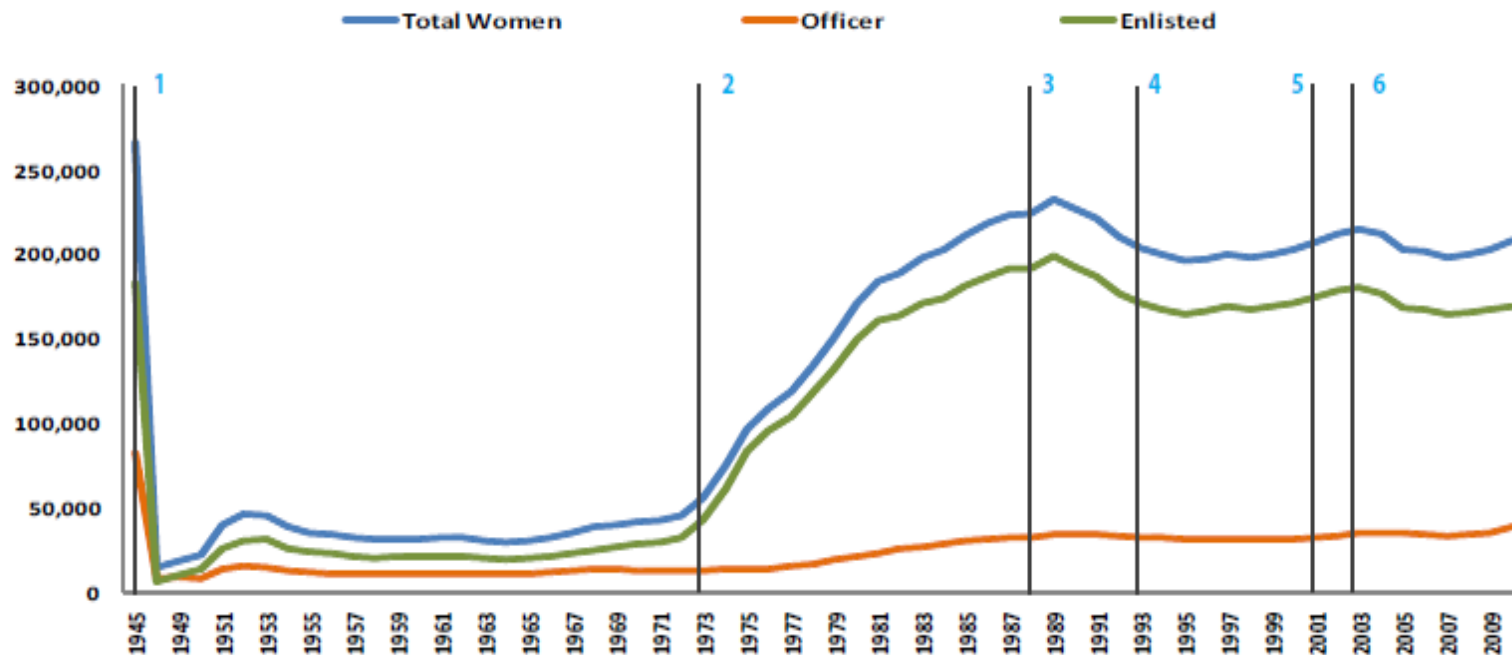
- There have been approximately 90 women POWs.
- Medal Of Honor Recipient - Dr. Mary E. Walker awarded for her service as a contract surgeon in the Union Army during the Civil War.
- Silver Star Recipients- In 2005 the first woman in history was awarded the Silver Star for combat action. 14 women have received the award.

A History of Service

- **1948:** Armed Forces Integration Act grants women permanent status in the Regular & Reserve forces of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Forces.
- **1973:** Establishment of the All Volunteer Force opens the door for expanding servicewomen's roles and numbers.
- **1978:** Congress amends law banning women from ships. Women allowed to serve aboard non-combat ships.
- **1991:** Congress repeals laws banning women from flying in combat.

A History of Service

Figure 2.
Female Active-Duty Military Personnel: 1945 to 2010



- 1 End of World War II
- 2 End of conscription/Beginning of AVF
- 3 Military Downsizing (1988)

- 4 Military Downsizing (1993)
- 5 September 11, 2001
- 6 Beginning of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq

Source: Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center, Statistical Information Analysis Division.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics.

Women in the Military

Why Do We Join?

- Educational Benefits
- Family Tradition
- Patriotism
- Start A Career
- Travel



Women in the Military

14% of the Active Duty Armed Forces

18% of National Guard and Reserves

20% of all new recruits

Female Veterans in California: Appr. 185,000

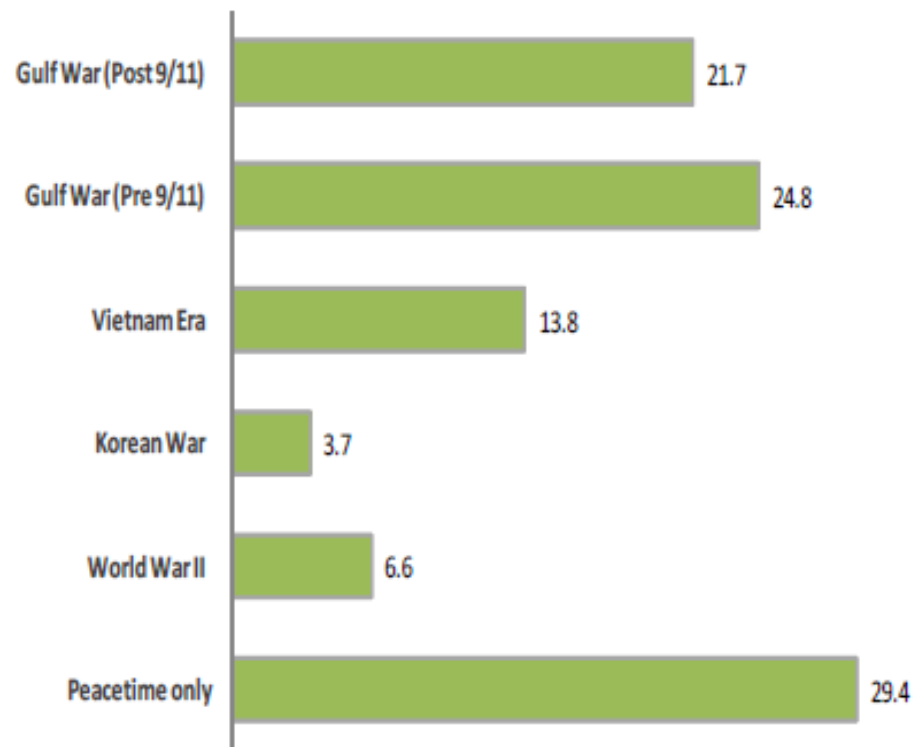
Female Veterans Nationwide: 1.5 million

Median age of the female veteran is 48

Median Age of the male veteran 62

Women Veterans

Figure 3.
Period of Military Service of Women Veterans: 2009
(in percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2009.

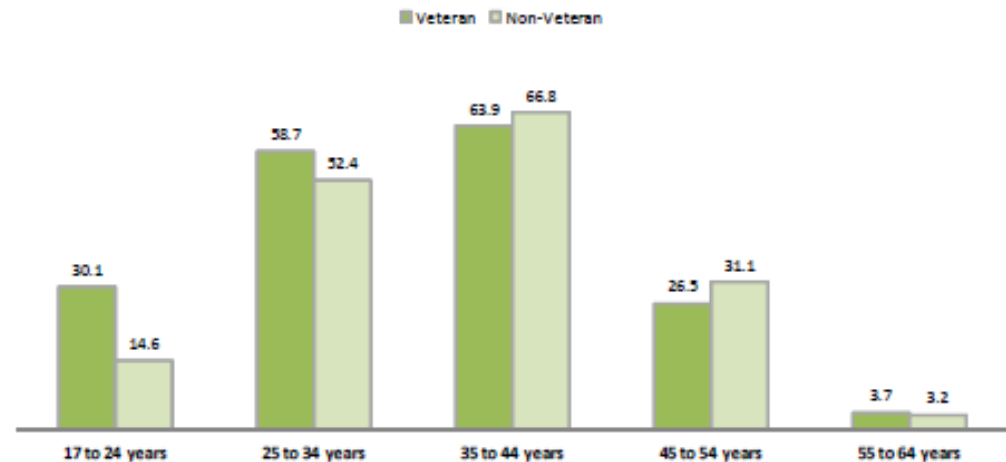
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics.

Challenges - During Service

- Limitations of service - equipment, duty stations & assignments
- Sexual assault & harassment
- Family & work-life balance
- Gender roles

Challenges - During Service

Figure 7.
Percentage of Working-Age Women with Children Under 18
Years Old, by Age and Veteran Status: 2009
(in percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2009.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics.

Challenges - After Service

- Transition to civilian life
 - Unemployment
 - Lack of housing
 - Medical disabilities
- Military Sexual Trauma & Post Traumatic Stress
- Not being recognized as a veteran
- Stigma and stereotypes about women who join the military
- Readjusting to “appropriate” behavior for women in civilian life
- Difficulty receiving female-specific healthcare - many facilities not equipped to be sensitive to female issues

Challenges - After Service

Figure 23.
Ten Most Prevalent Service-Connected Disabilities for Women Veterans: 2009

Condition	Frequency	Percentage
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	13,783	5.7%
Lower back pain	11,870	4.9%
Migraine	11,700	4.8%
Major depressive disorder	11,547	4.8%
Partial hysterectomy	9,903	4.1%
Removal of reproductive glands	8,558	3.5%
Impairment of knee	7,805	3.2%
Asthma	7,214	3.5%
Arthritis, due to trauma	6,620	2.7%
Tenosynovitis	5,686	2.3%
Total- Most Prevalent Disabilities	94,686	39.0%
Total- All Disabilities	243,632	100.0%

Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Benefit Administration

- Part time women veteran coordinators at Regional Claim Offices
- Center for Women Veterans
- Women Veterans Task Force

Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

- Full time women veteran program managers at each VA medical center
- Gender specific health care services
- Integrated primary care - Women's Clinics
- Mental Health - women providers; training on gender-sensitive care



Vision

The CalVet Division for Women Veterans Affairs will become the premier advocate for women veterans across California and will lead the nation in its support of women veterans.

Mission

The provide information, advocacy, outreach and support to California's women veterans.



Mission



Strategy 1: Information

Increase the Points of Access to Information & Education about Benefits and Services through Community Partnerships and Greater Social Media Activity

Associated Initiatives

- Women Veterans Roster
- Women Veterans Newsletter (bi-monthly)
- CalVet Website, FB and social media
- CalVet & Military Families Collaborative Phone Calls (monthly)
- Designated women veterans email and phone line
- CalVet/CRB Women Veterans Survey (bi-annual)
- Coalition with the Commission on the Status of Women & Girls and CRB

Associated Metrics

- Increase Roster by 10% @beginning of 2014.
- Increase % of women who know about state/federal benefits by 5% in 2013 Women Veterans Survey.
- Increase unique visitors to website and followers of social media by 5% @ beginning of 2014.

Strategy 2: Advocacy & Support

Improve current services and support the development of future services for women veterans and their families in communities throughout California.

Associated Initiatives

- CalVet & Women Veteran Program Managers Phone Calls (bi-monthly)
- CalVet & Military Families Collaborative Phone Calls (monthly)
- CalVet/CRB Women Veterans Survey (bi-annual)
- Designated women veterans email and phone line
- Townhall meeting & Round table Discussions
- Military Sexual Assault Prevention & Victim Care Initiative

Associated Metrics

- Increase the level of satisfaction with state/federal benefits by 5% per survey.
- Increase the number of attendees at townhall meetings & roundtable discussions by 5% annually.
- Engage in 1-2 new collaborations annually.

Strategy 3: Outreach

Increase outreach to women veterans across California through recurring events and outreach materials.

Associated Initiatives

- Women Veterans Leadership Conference (annual)
- Women's Military History Week Reception (annual)
- Women Veterans Newsletter (bi-monthly)
- CalVet Website, FB and social media
- Women Veterans Outreach Toolkit (**coming soon**)
- Outreach Events
- Townhall meeting & Round table Discussions

Associated Metrics

- Increase the number of women veteran attendees at the annual Women Veteran's Leadership Conference by 5% each year.
- Increase the number of women veteran attendees at additional events by 5% each year.
- Maintain a 90% overall satisfaction rating of annual events.

WOMEN'S MILITARY HISTORY WEEK

— Reception —

WHEN

TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH

2PM - 4PM

WHERE

THE CALIFORNIA MUSEUM

1020 'O' STREET

SACRAMENTO, CA 95814



**A CALL TO
SERVICE**

**A CALL TO
ACTION**

*Women's Leadership
Conference*

★ — OCTOBER 4, 2012 | DOUBLE TREE HOTEL, SACRAMENTO — ★

If you are a woman who served in the U.S. military, please fill out the Women Veterans Roster inside this brochure!

Of the 185,000 women veterans in California, many do not know about the benefits and services available to them at the federal, state and local levels.

CalVet and the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls want you to register for this Roster, so that you can learn about the benefits and services available to you. This is also your opportunity to stand up and be counted so that CalVet can ensure you receive quality services that meet your needs.



CALVET
WOMEN VETERANS

www.calvet.ca.gov/women
womenveterans@calvet.ca.gov
(916) 653-2327



www.women.ca.gov
(916) 651-5405

CALIFORNIA WOMEN VETERANS

Women Proudly Serve

CALVET
WOMEN VETERANS



CALVET WOMEN VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDES INFORMATION, ADVOCACY, OUTREACH AND SUPPORT FOR WOMEN VETERANS ACROSS CALIFORNIA

The women who have bravely served our country are not only veterans, they are wives, mothers, daughters and sisters, and their continued success and prosperity is important to California.

Women have served in every major conflict and in peacetime, whether formally recognized as members of the Armed Forces or not, and for this, women service members are owed a great debt of gratitude.

Thank You
For Your Service

California Benefits for Veterans

- Women Veterans Conference
- Veterans Claims Representation
- College Tuition Fee Waivers
- Non-Resident College Fee Waiver
- Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises
- CalVet Farm and Home Loan Program
- Veterans Homes of California
- Veterans Cemetery
- Veteran Preference-CA Civil Service Exams

For more information, please visit:
www.calvet.ca.gov/vet-services and
www.calvet.ca.gov/women

Federal Benefits for Veterans

- Compensation & Pension
- Education & Training
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Life Insurance
- Home Loans
- Health Care
- Burials/Memorials

VA Hotline: 1-855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636)

For more information, please visit:
www.benefits.va.gov or
www.womenshealth.va.gov

WOMEN VETS ROSTER

Please fill out this form and mail to:

CA Women Veterans Roster
P.O. Box 942895
Sacramento, CA 94295-0001



First Name	Last Name	Age		State		Zip Code
		<input type="checkbox"/> UNDER 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40-69	<input type="checkbox"/> 70 AND OVER	
Current Mailing Address	Apt#	City	Email Address			
County	Telephone Number		Ethnicity			
Branch of Service	Date Entered	Date Separated/Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> AFRICAN AMERICAN	<input type="checkbox"/> CAUCASIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> PACIFIC ISLANDERS	
How did you hear about the Roster?	/	/	<input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/> FILIPINO	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	
			<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> HISPANIC	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO STATE	



2013 WOMEN VETERANS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY:



SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2013 | SAN DIEGO, CA
MARRIOTT MISSION VALLEY



Thank You

Lindsey.sin@calvet.ca.gov

or

womenveterans@calvet.ca.gov

&

www.calvet.ca.gov